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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 SANAA 001696

SIPDIS

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TAGS: PREL KISL KPAL KWBG IS IZ YM OVID

SUBJECT: SALEH SHARES HIS PLAN FOR IRAQ AND PEACE PROCESS

Classified By: DCM Nabeel Khoury for reasons 1.5 b and d.

¶1. (C) Summary. President Saleh convoked Ambassador June 19 to pass his advice to the U.S. on how to solve the insurgency in Iraq and advance the Middle East peace process. As the U.S. will not be able to send a Washington envoy to Sanaa for the June 28-30 Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting, Saleh asked Ambassador to pass his ideas on Iraq and the peace process to Washington. Ambassador promised Saleh he would personally deliver his suggestions when he arrives in D.C. next week. Saleh also raised the timing of his November trip to the U.S. to meet President Bush, asking that the visit be scheduled before he meets President Chirac in Paris on November 14. End Summary

Saleh's Vision for Iraq...

¶2. (C) Saleh described his four-point plan for enhancing security and stability and ending the violence in Iraq.
"This is my vision, said the President:

- One, coalition forces under U.S. leadership announce the withdrawal of their forces to four major bases located outside of Iraqi cities, preventing them from "face to face contact" with Iraqi citizens. The announcement should include steps leading to the Iraqi security and military forces assuming full responsibility for Iraq's security, and to the complete withdrawal of coalition forces from Iraq.

- Two, the occupation authorities along with the Iraqi Government declare an amnesty for all "gunmen of the Iraqi resistance against coalition forces under U.S. leadership." The first stage of the amnesty should require armed elements to "leave their weapons in their homes." Once coalition forces have left Iraq, the Iraqi authorities should then collect these weapons. Part of this amnesty should include resumption of salaries to the military and civil services of the former regime "in order to guarantee their source of living."

- Three, convene a national dialogue that includes all Iraqi sects and factions in order to draft a constitution based in political pluralism and not on "sectarianism and racism."

- Four, lift the ban on the Socialist Arab Baath party and allow it to reconstitute itself within the "framework of political and party pluralism."

¶3. (C) Saleh said that 80 percent of Iraqis would support this plan, adding that he discussed his ideas with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Jabbour at the recent G-77 meeting in Doha and that Jabbour replied, "Its implementation would guarantee peace."

...and Middle East Peace

¶4. (C) Saleh outlined for Ambassador his three-point plan for Israel-Palestine:

- One, Israel stops construction of settlements and the "wall of isolation," opens Gaza's airport and seaport, and releases all Palestinian prisoners.

- Two, USG provides support to the efforts of Prime Minister Abbas to end the violence, including holding meetings with Palestinian factions in order to bring them into the peace process.

- Three, USG provides increased development support and economic aid to the PA to rebuild its economy and demonstrate to the Palestinian people that they enjoy American support.

If the U.S. can do this, Saleh advised, "You can recover your image in the Arab and Islamic world."

ROGY Support for the ITG

¶5. (C) Ambassador thanked President Saleh for sharing his ideas, and for ROYG support for the ITG. Saleh confirmed his intentions to support the ITG and said his proposal aims for

a quick end to violence so that transition to a democratic, independent Iraq can take place. Other nations, however, are not playing a constructive role, said the President, namely Iran, Kuwait, Turkey and Syria.

November Visit

16. (C) Saleh raised his post-Ramadan visit to meet with President Bush in early November. Explaining that he would be visiting Chirac in Paris November 14, Saleh asked if his D.C. itinerary might begin on or about November 7. Saleh said he planned to remain in the U.S. until his departure for France. Understanding that his official schedule would likely be for two days, Saleh said he would spend the remaining days getting an annual medical exam at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Comment

17. (C) Saleh's personal interests, which guide much of his decision making, are not invested in either Iraq or Palestine. His recommendations, general as they are, should be received in the well-meaning spirit in which they were intended. Post suggests a written response to the Yemeni President, thanking him for his interest in regional peace and promising to further study his proposal. End Comment.
Krajeski